

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a Request For Continued Examination of Application Serial No. 10/632,026. With this Preliminary Amendment, independent claims 1, 17, and 33 are amended. Claims 1, 3-17, 19-33, and 35-48 remain in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

In the Final Office Action dated December 5, 2005, claims 1, 3, 5-11, 17, 19, and 21-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by the Lim U.S. Patent No. 5,769,671. The remaining pending claims 4, 12-16, 20, 28-33, and 35-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lim.

With this Amendment, independent claims 1, 17, and 33 have been amended to more particularly define the configuration of the connector clip, and the relationship of the first and second arm when the clip is in the first (relaxed) position and when it is in the second (partially flexed or deflected) position prior to insertion of a lead into engagement with the clip. As amended, independent claims 1, 17, and 33 now state that the first and second arms are offset and partially overlapping so that the first side wall (of the first arm) is adjacent to and engaged against the second side wall (of the second arm) when the connector clip is in the first position. That is shown in FIGS. 3A and 3B. The side walls of the free ends of the two arms are offset so that the free ends can slightly overlap, with the side walls of the two free ends adjacent one another as shown in FIGS. 3A and 3B.

As amended, the independent claims also clarify that the first arm and the second arm are partially spread apart and aligned so that the first end abuts the second end when the connector clip is in the second position. That is shown in FIGS. 3C and 3D of the application. In the second position, the free ends of the two arms are now aligned (as shown in FIG. 3D), and the ends of the arms abut one another, as shown in FIG. 3C.

The invention as defined in independent claims 1, 17, and 33 is neither taught nor suggested by Lim. Lim does not show any arrangement in which the free ends of the arms are offset and partially overlapped when the clip is in a first or relaxed position. Nor

does Lim show the ends abutting when the clip is in a second position. Instead, the two ends are spaced from one another, as illustrated in FIG. 2 and again in FIG. 5 of Lim.

With the present amendment, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103 have been overcome, and should be withdrawn. Claims 1, 3-17, 19-33, and 35-48 are in condition for allowance.

In the Final Office Action, a provisional rejection was made based on obviousness type double patenting. The other two applications referred to in the Office Action are still pending, and response to the provisional rejection is premature.

In conclusion, the application is now in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /Daniel G. Chapik/

Daniel G. Chapik, Reg. No., 43,424

Telephone: (763) 514-3066

Customer No., 27581